



Embassy of the United States of America, Manila

Public Affairs Section

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **U.S. AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT ON ABU SAYYAF GROUP FOUNDER MADHATTA HAIPE'S GUILTY PLEA**

U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr. welcomed the news that Madhatta Haipe, a founding member of the notorious Abu Sayyaf Group, pleaded guilty to four counts of Hostage Taking on July 28, 2010 in the U.S. District Court, Washington, D.C. Haipe's guilty plea is in connection with the 1995 kidnapping for ransom of 16 Philippine and U.S citizens, including six children, near Lake Sebu in southern Mindanao.

"I am pleased to see justice served," said Ambassador Thomas. "I congratulate the Philippine and U.S. law enforcement agencies whose close and relentless collaboration brought about Haipe's extradition and admission of guilt. Our cooperation with the Philippines is essential in our common mission of defeating terrorist organizations that harm citizens of both our countries," he added.

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